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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/580,909	05/26/2000	Kenji Tagawa	2000 0659A	9103

7590 03/26/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THAN VINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2187

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/580,909

Applicant(s)

TAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Than Nguyen

Art Unit

2187

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/26/00, 7/21/00, 10/24/00, 10/5/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 May 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3,4,5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The priority papers, filed 5/26/00, IDSes, filed 10/24/00, 7/21/00, and 10/8/02 have been received.
2. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Audio Playback Apparatus and Method For Resuming Interrupted Playback.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (US 5,689,704).

6. As to claim 1-6, 13-14, 19-20:

Yoshida teaches recording medium/playback device storing an audio sequence in which a plurality of audio objects are arranged (Fig. 3); and resume information when playback of the audio sequence resumes midway through the audio sequence (storing playback

Art Unit: 2187

position during PAUSE/STOP, and desired music sequence; 3/50-55, 15/5-13/16).

Yoshida also teaches storing a position set from a user operation (user defined playback mode; 12/5-13/16).

7. As to claim 7-8:

Yoshida teaches a playback apparatus having receiving means for receiving playback operations according to audio sequence and time information (interactive mode receiving user-define playback operations; 12/15-13/16); and playback means for playing the specified playback operation (playback device 30 executes playback according to user selection; 12/37-43).

8. As to claims 9-11,15-17,21-22:

Yoshida teaches a playback apparatus for storing resume information (storing user-defined playback information; 12/15-13/16), error detector (4/32-42), and playback means for reading the resume information (playback device 30 executes playback according to user selection; 12/37-43).

9. As to claim 12,18,23:

Yoshida teaches a recording apparatus having means for receiving a user operation; playback means for playing audio objects defined by the user (playback device 30 executes playback according to user selection; 12/37-43); and recording means for recording a resume position where the user made a stop operation (storing playback position during PAUSE/STOP, and desired music sequence; 3/50-55, 15/5-13/16).

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2187

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

12. The fax phone number for Art Unit 2187 is 703-872-9306.



Than Nguyen

Primary Patent Examiner

3/18/2004